

Statement on New Energy Efficiency Standards for Appliances January 18, 2001

I am pleased that the Department of Energy is today establishing four new energy efficiency standards for appliances that will save consumers and businesses more than \$19 billion over the next 30 years. These standards once again demonstrate that environmental protection and economic growth go hand in hand. By reducing electricity use, the standards will not only make our electricity system more reliable but also will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other harmful air pollutants. I applaud the leadership and hard work of Energy Secretary Bill Richardson and his staff for bringing these consumer savings and environmental benefits to the American public.

These new standards for clothes washers, water heaters, residential heat pumps and central air conditioners, and commercial heating and cooling equipment are a critical part of our broader effort to address the greatest environmental challenge of the 21st century: global warming. The world's leading scientists have established that our climate is changing, that the rate of change is increasing, that human activi-

ties are a significant factor in climate change, and that climate change is likely to have many negative impacts on our environment and society.

As part of our effort to combat global warming, this administration has launched more than 50 major initiatives to improve energy efficiency and develop clean energy sources. Along with the new standards announced today, higher energy efficiency standards for appliances established by this administration will save consumers more than \$10 billion and avoid carbon dioxide emissions of more than 225 million metric tons by 2010. We also made the Federal Government more efficient—in 1999 alone, we reduced our annual energy bill by \$800 million. By 2010, these Federal energy savings will reduce annual emissions by an amount equal to taking 1.7 million cars off the road.

I am proud of the progress we have made and am confident that it will serve as a foundation upon which our Nation can continue to meet the profound challenge of climate change.

Memorandum on the Inter-Agency Task Force for Preparation for the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance January 18, 2001

*Memorandum for the Heads of Executive
Departments and Agencies*

Subject: Inter-Agency Task Force for
Preparation for the World Conference Against
Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and
Related Intolerance

The United Nations has held two world conferences on racism, one in 1978, and another in 1983. These two conferences focused on the world's obligation to victims of racial discrimination and the importance of national legislative, judicial, and administrative action in addressing the problem of racism.

In recognition of the fact that the objective of eliminating racial discrimination has not yet

been attained, the United Nations in a 1997 resolution called for a Third World Conference on Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (Conference). The Conference will be held in South Africa in September 2001.

This Administration has consistently demonstrated a strong commitment to issues of race and race relations and believes that the United States will play an important role in this international event. Our effective participation in the Conference requires the continued involvement and coordination of many executive departments and agencies, as well as input from nongovernmental organizations. This Administration is

strongly committed to the success of the Conference and, to that end, I direct as follows:

- (1) There is established an “Inter-Agency Task Force for the United Nations World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance” (Task Force).
- (2) The Task Force shall be comprised of representatives from the Departments of Justice, State, the Interior, the Small Business Administration, and such other agencies as the Chair deems appropriate. The Chair of the Task Force shall be the representative from the Justice Department. The Task Force shall report to the President, through the White House Chief of Staff.
- (3) The Task Force shall coordinate all planning efforts related to the United States’ participation in the Conference. This coordination shall include such matters as outreach to nongovernmental organizations, participation in national and international discussions concerning the Conference’s agenda, its objectives and scope, and government-wide preparations for participation in the Conference.
- (4) The Department of State shall provide the funding for the Task Force and bear all administrative costs.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum.

Farewell Address to the Nation *January 18, 2001*

My fellow citizens, tonight is my last opportunity to speak to you from the Oval Office as your President. I am profoundly grateful to you for twice giving me the honor to serve, to work for you and with you to prepare our Nation for the 21st century.

And I’m grateful to Vice President Gore, to my Cabinet Secretaries, and to all those who have served with me for the last 8 years.

This has been a time of dramatic transformation, and you have risen to every new challenge. You have made our social fabric stronger, our families healthier and safer, our people more prosperous. You, the American people, have made our passage into the global information age an era of great American renewal.

In all the work I have done as President—every decision I have made, every executive action I have taken, every bill I have proposed and signed—I’ve tried to give all Americans the tools and conditions to build the future of our dreams in a good society with a strong economy, a cleaner environment, and a freer, safer, more prosperous world.

I have steered my course by our enduring values: opportunity for all, responsibility from all, a community of all Americans. I have sought to give America a new kind of Government, smaller, more modern, more effective, full of

ideas and policies appropriate to this new time, always putting people first, always focusing on the future.

Working together, America has done well. Our economy is breaking records with more than 22 million new jobs, the lowest unemployment in 30 years, the highest homeownership ever, the longest expansion in history. Our families and communities are stronger. Thirty-five million Americans have used the family leave law; 8 million have moved off welfare. Crime is at a 25-year low. Over 10 million Americans receive more college aid, and more people than ever are going to college. Our schools are better. Higher standards, greater accountability, and larger investments have brought higher test scores and higher graduation rates. More than 3 million children have health insurance now, and more than 7 million Americans have been lifted out of poverty. Incomes are rising across the board. Our air and water are cleaner. Our food and drinking water are safer. And more of our precious land has been preserved in the continental United States than at any time in a 100 years.

America has been a force for peace and prosperity in every corner of the globe. I’m very grateful to be able to turn over the reins of leadership to a new President with America in